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imagery analysis report

SA-8 SAM System in Poland (S)

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SA-8 SAM SYSTEM IN POLAND (S)

1. (S/D) The SA-8 (GECKO) surface-to-air missile (SAM) system consisting of four SA-8 transporter-erector-launcher and radars (TELRS) and two transloaders was identified for the first time in Poland at Koszalin SAM/Antiaircraft Artillery (AAA) Training Area [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Figure 1). This training area is associated with Koszalin Army Barracks 002 [REDACTED] which houses two Polish AAA regiments and an air defense school. The identification of SA-8 equipment at this installation strongly suggests that it will soon be added to the Polish National Ground Forces inventory. The SA-8 TELRs would significantly enhance Poland's air defense capability. [REDACTED]

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2. (TSR [REDACTED]) SA-8 activity in Poland was initially reported through electronic intercept data as early as June 1978, when the SA-8 LAND ROLL radar was detected in target acquisition and tracking roles within Polish training areas at Sulecin, Stargard, Szczecin, Swiecie, Mtawa, and Swietoszow.¹⁻³ In addition, SA-8 activity was detected within Soviet air defense training areas at Kostrzyn and Borne in October 1978.⁴ There are only two tank divisions in the Soviet ground forces in Poland (Northern Group of Forces). If the SA-8 system is assigned to one of the tank divisions, it would be a change from the usual Soviet practice. The SA-8 system is not seen frequently with tank divisions in the USSR, and to date, the SA-8 has not been deployed with any of the Groups of Forces tank divisions. Deployment of mobile SAM systems with National Ground Forces prior to deployment with Soviet units is not unique in Poland. In 1974, the SA-6 was deployed with Polish National Ground Forces; however, the SA-6 was not seen with the Northern Group of Forces tank divisions until 1978.

DOCUMENTS

1. DIRNSA. *Radars Used with the SA-8 SAM System Active in Poland on 23 and 27 June 1978*, 030031Z Oct 78 (SECRET [REDACTED])

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2. DoD. EUDAC/OCRD 14849, DASR 29-78, *SA-8 Associated Equipment in Poland*, 070747Z Sep 78 (SECRET/[REDACTED])

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3. DIA. DIADIN 279-2C, *Warsaw Pact: SA-8 Propagation (U)*, 070409Z Oct 78 (TOP SECRET [REDACTED])

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4. DoD [REDACTED] *Missile Order of Battle Information (U)*, Aug 79 (SECRET [REDACTED])

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